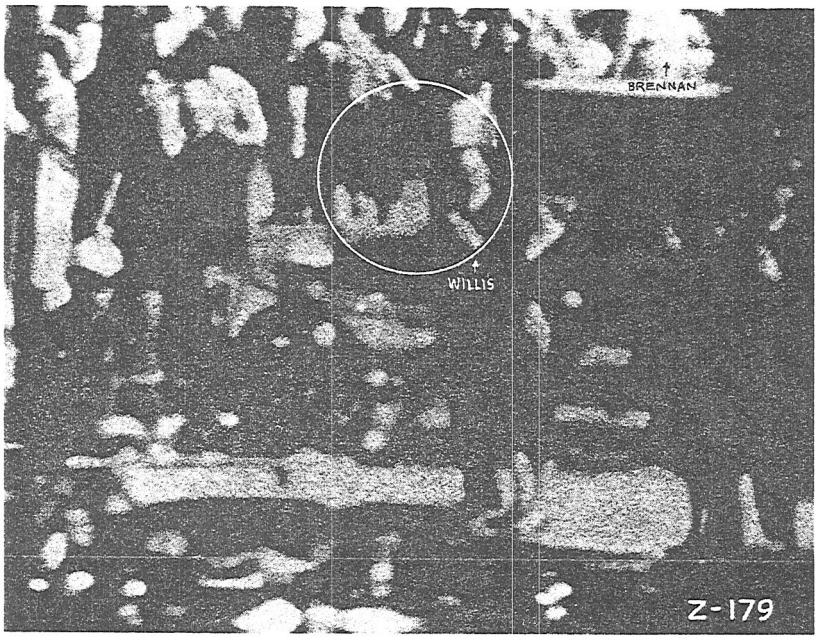
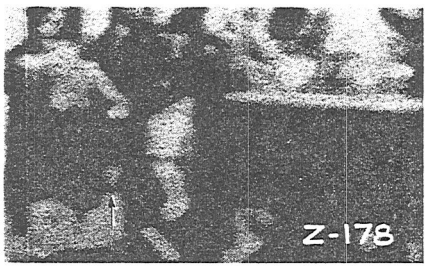
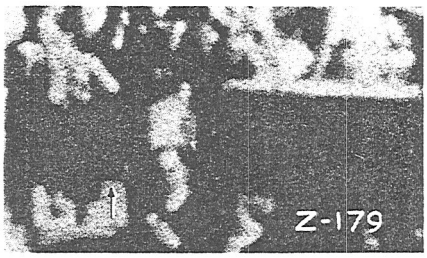
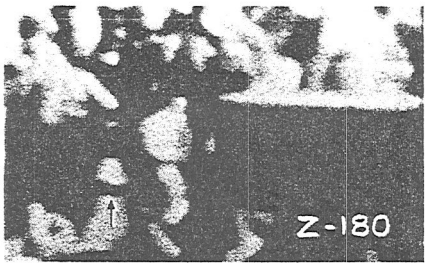
COVERUPS!

Number 6 | Gary Mack, Editor & Publisher | January, 1983









MOTORCYCLE AT Z-179? Close inspection of Zapruder frames 178, 179, and 180 shows sudden movement in Houston Street near the west curb; *this object traverses more than 12 inches in about one-ninth of a second!* (2/18.3-second between 178 and 180). To understand the location, note Brennan sitting on the monument wall at upper right, Willis aiming camera at center, and Connally and Jackie in limousine at lower left. The critical area is encircled, just to the left of Willis' head. In the detail from the three frames at right, note arrows pointing to this movement beyond legs of spectators...a motorcycle tire? Also note changes near end of wall, which also could be significant.

HOW THE ZAPRUDER FILM CAN ANSWER ACOUSTIC QUESTIONS

by Gary Mack

One of the greatest difficulties faced by the HSCA was finding independent corroboration for the BBN acoustics evidence. Surprisingly, the Zapruder film was not officially analyzed to find the motorcycle in question, even though it should be visible if Dr. Barger and his associates are correct.

In the March 1982 issue of *The Continuing Inquiry* I related how HSCA staffers Robert Groden and Gary Cornwell looked at the film on special optical equipment late in 1978. Cornwell spotted what could be interpreted as an officer's helmet, in motion, and Groden agreed; yet this important observation was not mentioned in the Final Report or accompanying volumes.

Two years later Groden showed me a stabilized blowup of the first three seconds in which JFK is on Elm. Groden had produced the blowup to study the actions, if any, of Howard Brennan sitting on the monument wall. Contrary to his WC testimony, Brennan did not turn his head to look up at the window—he sat motionless throughout the sequence.

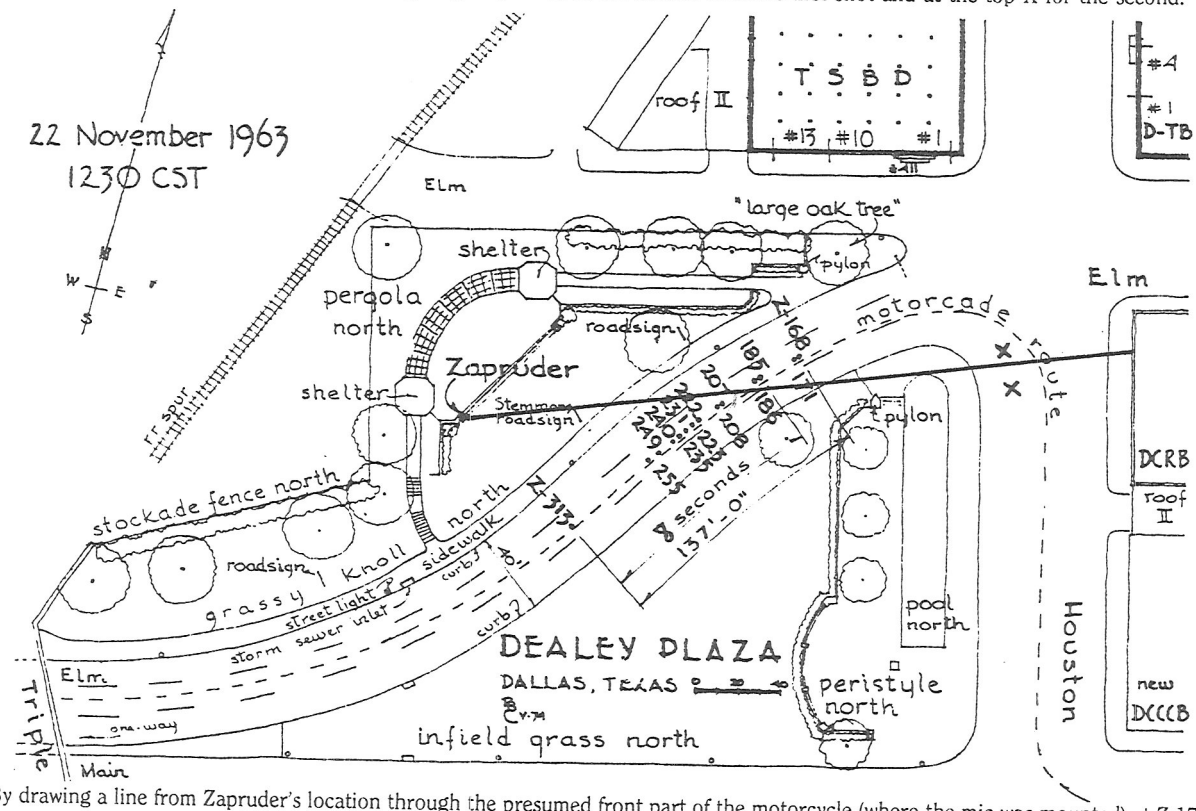
Also visible was the crowd of people to the left of Brennan and the motorcade on Houston. For a brief moment, an object between the crowd and motorcade appeared to be moving. The motion was subtle and poorly defined, but it *was* movement at a rate slightly faster than the cars and moving in the same direction.

If computer enhancement were applied to this sequence, we could know for sure whether or not a motorcycle was present in the position predicted by the scientists. We could also learn which of the last two shots struck JFK in the head.

To further illustrate the potential of this discovery, let's assume the moving object really is the motorcycle with the open mic; its location can then be diagrammed to test its consistency with the acoustics evidence. The best frames for study are Z-178, 179 and 180. Immediately to the left of the wall are two people with a small open space between them. In one frame, 179, the space changes color from very light to dark. Earlier and later frames also show small changes in the space, but none are as dramatic. The apparent movement and color seem to be consistent with the bottom part of the front wheel, the middle of the cycle, or its shadow.

This area of the film frame is extremely bright from sunlight reflecting off the street. Multigeneration copies show little if any detail, so the photo blowups should not be considered absolute proof—still, the change in shape should be fairly obvious (*photos courtesy of Jack White*).

One result of the Dealey Plaza test firings and analysis was learning the location of the motorcycle when each shot was fired during the assassination. It was in the left lane of Houston and almost at the corner when the first shots sounded. Table II of Dr. Barger's report to the Committee (8HSCA101) tells us which test mic was closest to the motorcycle location; from that information, the approximate motorcycle position can be plotted. In the following diagram, it was at the bottom X at the first shot and at the top X for the second:



By drawing a line from Zapruder's location through the presumed front part of the motorcycle (where the mic was mounted) at Z-179, we see that it falls between the two Xs. In other words; frame 179 shows the motorcycle between the locations where the open mic picked up gunshots.

Note that the acoustics evidence reveals only the locations of the motorcycle and shooters, not the President. The HSCA assumed either the third or fourth shot was the fatal head shot, then counted backwards to match the recording to the film. According to the timing of the speed corrected tape (something the writers of the Final Report failed to do), the assassination took 8.25 seconds. The third shot, fired from the grassy knoll, came .48 seconds before the fourth shot. So if the fourth shot was the head shot (frame 312), then the first shot must have been fired at Z-161; but if the third shot was the head shot, then the first one came at Z-170.

Using the same method, and knowing from the BBN analysis that the second shot was 1.64 seconds after the first, then shot number two was fired at either Z-191 or Z-200. Therefore, Z-179 is a point in time between the first two gunshots and it shows a moving object that could well be the motorcycle.

If it is, it's precise location can be measured and that can tell us how to match the recording to the film.

In his February 2, 1982 letter to Norman Ramsey, Dr. Barger included a refined measurement of the motorcycle's speed when the first two shots were fired. The figure was "about 8mph," which is 11.7 feet per second. In the 1.64 seconds between the first two shots, therefore, the motorcycle traveled 19.2 feet.

Additionally, the average speed of the Zapruder film is 18.3 frames per second. So if the first shot was fired at Z-161, then Z-179 is 18 frames later or just under one second in time. The motorcycle would have traveled only 11.5 feet.

Or, if the first shot was at Z-170, that's a difference of 9 frames or not quite ½ second in time. At 11.7 feet per second, that's a distance of 5.8 feet. In simpler terms, if we measure the distance from the motorcycle position when the first shot was fired to the motorcycle position at Z-179, we should find a distance of either 11.5 feet or 5.8 feet.

This diagram, which I drew from visual observation only, and without having done the speed calculations, shows a distance of about 12.5 feet. That's an error of only 1 foot, which is either due to minor drafting errors or small speed variations of Zapruder's camera and the recording itself. Nevertheless, this evidence indicates shot number 4 would be the fatal head shot.

Later frames, including Z-188, 189 and 194, show what could be an officer's helmet—it has moved up Houston about six feet, the distance which would be covered at the speed of 8mph.

By no means does this information rule out other gunshots at the time of the head shot. There are at least two other impulses on the DPD tape which could not be positively identified as either shots or false alarms, and there are other firing locations which might have changed a "false alarm" into a shot. But this methodology, which can be done inexpensively and with far greater accuracy than I am capable of, will answer many questions about the four known gunshots on the Dallas Police recording. Perhaps Louis Stokes' subcommittee, which will conduct hearings on Dr. Barger's rebuttal to the Ramsey Report, will have this done.

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Teamsters figure is killed

Businessman linked to organized crime

DTH 1-21-83

Los Angeles Times

CHICAGO — Millionaire insurance executive Allen M. Dorfman, a convicted Teamsters union consultant with mob ties, was gunned down gangland style in the parking lot of a suburban hotel Thursday, three weeks before he was to be sentenced in federal court for his role in a conspiracy to bribe a U.S. senator.

Dorfman, 60, was en route to lunch with a friend at the Lincolnwood Hyatt Hotel restaurant shortly before 1 p.m. when he was ambushed and slain by two gunmen, police said. Dorfman was shot five times in the head with a .22-caliber revolver.

"Two men approached them from behind and said, 'This is a robbery,' and then just started shooting," said Lincolnwood Police Chief Daniel Martin.

He said Dorfman's companion, Irwin Weiner, a former bail bondsman, was not hurt and nothing was taken by the assailants. Police were questioning Weiner and three other witnesses.

"From what we know now it sounds like ... it's a gangland hit," said Mark Vogel, an attorney for the Justice Department's Organized Crime Strike Force who helped prosecute Dorfman last year.

In December, Dorfman was convicted along with Teamsters President Roy L. Williams and reputed mobster Joseph "Joey the Clown" Lombardo of conspiring to bribe former Sen. Howard W. Cannon, D-Nev. Two Teamsters pension fund officials also were convicted in the case that relied on wiretap evidence intercepted by the FBI during a yearlong surveillance of Dorfman's offices.

Dorfman

Dorfman also was awaiting trial on two other federal grand jury indictments. In San Francisco, he faced charges of conspiracy to defraud the Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders Union. In Chicago, he and Lombardo were charged with extortion after a business associate's home was bombed.

At the time of Dorfman's death, federal prosecutors were preparing to detail his mob connections and prior union racketeering activities to support their efforts to get a maximum prison sentence for Dorfman, who was identified in FBI documents as a financier of organized crime.

Prosecutors planned to use more of the tape-recorded conversations that helped convict Dorfman and Williams last month — tapes that reportedly linked Dorfman to Las Vegas mob activities and kickback schemes with the Teamsters union pension and health insurance funds.

Dorfman, who was born Allen Malnick, was the stepson of the late Chicago mobster Paul "Red" Dorfman, an associate of Al Capone. The younger Dorfman rose to prominence in the Teamsters after taking over the giant union's insurance business.

And when former Teamsters President Jimmy Hoffa was sent to prison for jury tampering — a charge on which Dorfman won acquittal — Hoffa left Dorfman in charge of the union's growing Central States Pension Fund. In a short time that fund gained a reputation as "the mob's bank."

(Excerpts from 9OHSCA1040-1044)

(1355) *Relationship with Ruby.*—The only definite and documented contact between Weiner and Jack Ruby was the 12-minute telephone call from Ruby to Weiner on Saturday, October 26, 1963, at 12:07 p.m. (*2251*) The Warren Commission inferred that this call was related to Ruby's 1963 labor problems concerning amateur nights at Dallas nightclubs,(*2252*) although it did not completely investigate the circumstances of the call.

(1356) On November 27, 1963, Weiner had refused to explain the call's details to the FBI.(*2253*) He told the committee that FBI agents had contacted his daughter in order to leave a message for him and had frightened her, thus causing Weiner's recalcitrant attitude when the agents spoke to him.(*2254*) The FBI made no further attempt to interview Weiner.(*2255*)

(1361) In his committee testimony, Weiner acknowledged going to school with Earl Ruby and said that he might have met Jack Ruby four or five times in his entire life,(*2266*) but he was not sure when their last contact had occurred.

(1363) Since Weiner and Ruby both had associations with organized crime and labor figures, it is possible that they had common associates, although no instances have arisen wherein Ruby and Weiner actually were found to be in contact as a result of any common associates.

(1364) One possible link involves Jack Ruby's association and acquaintance with Paul Dorfman, a key figure in the organization and solidification of the coalition between organized crime members, the Teamsters Union, and Hoffa. In 1940, Dorfman became head of the Waste Material Handlers Union in Chicago; Ruby had briefly served as a union organizer under Dorfman (for approximately 2 months), having held that position before Dorfman took over.(*2274*) Dorfman clearly remembered Ruby when interviewed by the FBI in 1963, although he said that since 1940 he had not seen Ruby except for a few chance meetings in the street.(*2275*) Paul Dorfman died in 1971, leaving his stepson, Allen Dorfman, to control and influence much of the Teamsters' illegal activities in conjunction with Hoffa, thereby closely alining him with Weiner. There is no documentation of any Ruby-Weiner contact through either of the Dorfmans.

Order broadens power to withhold information

By HOWELL RAINES
New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON — President Reagan on Friday signed an executive order that gives government officials broader authority to withhold information from the public on the grounds of national security.

Administration spokesmen said the new Executive Order on National Security Information will also make it more difficult for judges to de-classify information sought by citizens under the Freedom of Information Act.

The presidential order reverses a 25-year trend toward a less-restrictive government information policy. Reagan's order supersedes an order signed by President Carter in 1978, which Reagan administration officials regarded as too lenient.

Specifically, the Reagan order:

- Eliminates a requirement in the Carter order that government officials must consider the public's right to know before classifying information as "top secret," "secret" or "confidential."
- Eliminates a Carter requirement that such classifications must be based on "identifiable" potential damage to the national security.
- Requires that classifying officials, when in doubt, must use the highest level of secrecy rather than the lowest level, as provided in the Carter order.

In a statement released by the White House press office, Reagan said, "The order enhances protection for national security information without permitting excessive classification of documents by the government."

Reagan said the order achieves the "proper balance" between the public's right to information and government security needs. "It is essential," he said, "for our citizens to be informed about their government's activities, but it is also essential to protect certain sensitive information when disclosure could harm the security of all our citizens."

The statement continued: "The order expressly — and properly — prohibits use of classification to hide violations of law, inefficiency or administrative error; to prevent embarrassment to a person, organization or agency; to restrain competition; or to prevent or delay the public release of information that does not require national security protection."

Reaction to the president's tightening of the classification rules was divided along partisan lines. Sen. Barry Goldwater, R.-Ariz., chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, called the order a "big improvement" over the Carter directive. But Sen. Walter Huddleston of Kentucky, a Democratic member of the committee, said the order presents "a serious danger of overclassification and excessive secrecy in government."

Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D.-N.Y., vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, criticized the deletion of the "identifiable" harm standard.

Alan Adler, an attorney at Center for National Security Studies, which opposes the new order, challenged the assertion by administration officials that the changes will have an impact on lawsuits bought under the Freedom of Information Act in making it more difficult to obtain information.

"The judges should not be deciding for themselves what information ought to be classified," said one of three administration officials who discussed the new order with reporters on the condition they not be identified.

Agency shake-up worries scientists

FWST 12-20-82

By WARREN E. LEARY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The National Science Foundation, the federal agency sponsoring much of the country's academic research, is undergoing an unusual top management shake-up that has some scientists worried.

The fear is that the agency, which has a billion-dollar budget, may become a political pawn of the White House, changing the quasi-independent status it has maintained since it was established in 1950.

The uneasiness started after President Reagan appointed Dr. Edward A. Knapp as the new foundation director on Nov. 2. — an appointment that must still be confirmed by the Senate.

Knapp, a 50-year-old physicist from the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, replaces Dr. John B. Slaughter; who resigned after two years to become chancellor of the University of Maryland's main campus.

After initially saying he would not sweep out top assistants appointed during previous administrations, Knapp asked for the resignations of the second-in-command, deputy director Donald N. Langenberg, and assistant director Eloise E. Clark.

A third senior official, assistant director Francis S. Johnson, previously announced that he was returning to a position at the University of Texas at Dallas, and the last assistant director position is vacant.

These actions clear the way for every upper-echelon position at the foundation to be filled by a Reagan administration appointee, a situation that has never arisen in other administrations.

Knapp denies that his actions were forced by the Presidential Personnel Office or the White House science adviser, Dr. George Keyworth, although he says he discussed the matter with both.

"It was my decision to replace Dr. Langenberg and Dr. Clark in order to create my own team," Knapp said. "My decision was not the result of any pressure on their part."

Senior positions at the foundation traditionally have not been regarded as political even though they are presidential appointments.

The White House usually fills vacancies from lists of candidates submitted by the National Science Board, the independent policy-making body that runs the foundation in conjunction with the director.

Dr. Lewis Branscomb, chief scientist at International Business Machines Corp., and chairman of the foundation's board, said the body was not consulted about the resignations.

Branscomb said in an interview that he was aware of the grumblings in scientific circles about the move, but he defended Knapp's right to build his management team and noted that the physicist is well-regarded by those who know him.

"While some might disagree with the way this was handled, the real proof as to whether or not he made a good decision rides on the nature of the appointments (to fill the vacancies)," Branscomb said.

The Dallas Morning News Saturday, August 14, 1982

U.S. threatens to censor new book

Reuters

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department is threatening to block publication of portions of a forthcoming book that uses department documents to show that British intelligence helped the United States spy on American political activists, including actress Jane Fonda, in the early 1970s.

Justice Department documents, obtained by author James Bamford of Boston under the Freedom of Information Act, show that a British electronic eavesdropping agency, the Government Communications Headquarters, helped U.S. intelligence in a domestic spying program known as Operation Minaret.

Bamford said his book, due out Sept. 23, will reveal that targets of the 1969-73 Operation Minaret included Ms. Fonda, political activist Tom Hayden (now Ms. Fonda's husband) and prominent U.S. black leaders whom he did not name. Miss Fonda and Hayden at the time were leading figures in the anti-Vietnam War movement.

The Justice Department is attempting to get the documents back and has threatened to take legal action if they are included in the book, to be published by Houghton Mifflin. The department says the documents are highly sensitive and were improperly declassified when it gave them to Bamford in 1979.

The documents, obtained by Reuters from a private source other than Bamford, disclose that GCHQ intercepted and gave the U.S. government telex communications from American citizens who had been placed on a "watch list" by the secret National Security Agency.

Bamford acquired the documents during research for the first book written about NSA, the U.S. counterpart of GCHQ, called *Puzzle Palace: A Report on America's Most Secret Agency.*

The most sensitive of the documents obtained by Reuters is a Justice memo on NSA actions it says might have violated the "fundamental constitutional rights of U.S. citizens."

NSA has sought to keep the lowest possible profile since it was established in 1952. Its very existence was denied by the government for years, leading to a joke that NSA stands for "No Such Agency." Bamford said NSA employs 50,000 people and uses 20 buildings at Fort Meade, Md., and is larger than the CIA.

Bamford said the book will examine in detail for the first time publicly how the agency is structured.

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New book on secret agency sparks dispute over research

By HERBERT MITGANG
New York Times News Service

NEW YORK — A study of the top-secret National Security Agency, which is responsible for worldwide electronic surveillance, will be published by the Houghton Mifflin Co. of Boston on Sept. 23, but the book has already touched off controversy.

The agency demanded that James Bamford, author of the book, *The Puzzle Palace*, return documents he obtained for research into the intelligence agency through what he said was a legal loophole.

This is believed to be the first time a government agency had attempted to recover documents it provided for a book on the basis that the public release had been made "by error" and that the documents had then been reclassified to put them beyond the reach of the Freedom of Information Act.

In July 1981, attorneys from the agency and the Department of Justice visited the publishing house to demand the return of the documents. According to Bamford, they also threatened criminal action under the espionage laws. Those who took part in the meeting included Daniel C. Schwartz, then the security agency's general counsel; Eugene Yates, another agency official; and Gerald A. Schroeder, an adviser to the Department of Justice.

Bamford said that at the meeting he declined to provide any information about the book or the documents because he was not represented by counsel, either on the part of the publishing house or himself. Later he consulted Mark H. Lynch, a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union, who advised him not to return the documents on the ground that the Freedom of Information Act had no provision for the reclassification or return of documents.

There was no attempt to suppress the book or prevent its distribution, according to the publisher. Bamford said that no part of the book had been submitted for NSA clearance.

Bamford, 35, is a specialist in investigative reporting. "I'm sure things have since tightened up for writers seeking any material in 1982 under the Freedom of Information Act," he said.

Susan Arnold of the agency's general counsel's office at Fort Meade, Md., who was asked to commment about *The Puzzle Palace* and possible legal action against the author or publisher, said, "I am not at liberty to discuss the book." As for an article in the Sept. 6 issue of *Newsweek* based on the book, Caroline Johnson, a public information officer for the agency, said, "We are not making any comment concerning the article or the book."

Because the security agency deals with codes and other military material considered more secret than the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency, a joke in Washington has the initials standing for "No Such Agency."

Yet Bamford described how he obtained 6,000 pages of documents from the agency in 1978.

"NSA is virtually excluded from the Freedom of Information Act," he said, "but I found a loophole in a section of Public Law 86-36 that enabled me to request the NSA Newsletter, a sort of house organ. It has lots of information in it and is restricted to 'NSA employees and their families.'

"I argued with NSA," he continued, "that, as a serious writer, I was as qualified as anybody's relative to see the newsletter. So after I appealed their initial turndown, they gave in. Although they blacked out names and faces of employees, there was still enough there to enable me to follow up leads."

Bamford said he had also received an organizational list for the agency, "including names of top officials."

"I was given 40 names and titles in February 1980, plus a surprising tour of the facilities at Fort Meade, because I was writing the book," he said.

The Puzzle Palace contains a list of those who have served the agency as director or deputy director since 1952.

The current director is Lt. Gen. Lincoln D. Faurer of the Air Force. He has held that position since March 10, 1981.

An appendix lists "NSA Career Panels and Professions," which covers the jobs and activities, including cryptoanalysts, computer systems analysts and other scientists, in the agency.

FWST
WEDNESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 12, 1983

New directive restricts flow of information

By AARON ESPTEIN
Knight-Ridder News Service

WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration has issued new guidelines that make it tougher for journalists, scholars and public interest groups to get information from the government without paying high fees.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, federal agencies are required to waive or reduce fees — which can run as high as $55 an hour for some computer searchers — if the documents requested "can be considered as primarily benefiting the general public."

But in a directive to all federal departments and agencies dated Friday, Assistant Attorney General Jonathan G. Rose listed five restrictive criteria, noting that fee waivers should be granted more sparingly "to safeguard the federal treasury."

Fees should be charged, Rose said, unless there is a genuine public interest in the records sought and their subject matter, and the person requesting documents is a specialist in the field of his request, among other factors.

Spokesmen for journalists, scholars and public interest groups attacked the Rose guidelines. They said the rules would impair the flow of significant government information to the public, and strike at organizations least able to pay fees.

Some critics, such as Jack Landau of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, charged that the guidelines violate the Freedom of Information Act.

The Dallas Morning News Monday, June 7, 1982

Ray recounts King drama

United Press International

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A slender man wearing horn-rimmed glasses and carrying a passport bearing the name Ramon Sneyd stepped from a Lisbon-to-Brussels jet at Heathrow Airport in London June 8, 1968.

The man tried to pass through British Immigration and found himself in the grasp of Scotland Yard detectives. The intense, worldwide manhunt for the assassin of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King was over.

"Oh God," said the suspect, later to be identified as small-time hoodlum James Earl Ray. "I feel so trapped."

Ray, who 14 years later sits in a windowless maximum-security cell at the Tennessee State Penitentiary, recounted in an exclusive United Press International interview the drama that was unfolding around the crime he now insists he did not commit.

Ray, now 54, admitted in court that he killed King. He since has recanted the plea and says he was framed in a conspiracy led by a mystery man known only as Raoul.

"I was down the street about three blocks from where King was shot, checking a leak in a tire when it happened," Ray said. "My fingerprints were on the gun — but I had handled it — I had given it to Raoul."

He said he first heard of King's death while driving his white Mustang toward Mississippi. Ray panicked when he heard on the car radio that he was wanted for the crime and began a flight that ended with the London arrest, he said.

Raoul, never found or identified, remains a mystery man.

Ray doggedly keeps up his fight for freedom — a struggle he admits may be growing futile.

"In a full-blown hearing, I will be able to get at some of the FBI and Justice Department files in the case," Ray said. "That's all I want. If a jury finds me guilty, I'll get before the court and take full responsibility for the shooting.

"I've been trying the courts — but if I fail, I will resolve myself to spending my life in prison," Ray said. "If I fail there I will quit — I'll give up."

Ray says he just wants to get out of prison and move to some rural area where few have heard of him.

GALLERY DECEMBER 1982

CONFIDENTIAL: THE FBI'S FILE ON JFK - PART TWO

What were Jack Ruby's real motives behind his slaying of alleged President Kennedy assassin Lee Harvey Oswald? What were the hidden connections between Ruby, Oswald, and policeman J.D. Tippit? In this, the conclusion of his two-part report, veteran Kennedy assassination expert Earl Golz raises these important questions as well as others, presenting even more startling new evidence concerning the greatest mystery of the twentieth century. Investigative report by Earl Golz

The story of Mrs. Silvia Odio—a Cuban exile living in Dallas in 1963—loomed as one of the Warren Commission's most troublesome unanswered questions about a possible conspiracy. Several weeks after the assassination, Mrs. Odio had told James Hosty, Jr., and another FBI agent that Oswald, along with two Latin men, showed up at her Dallas apartment in late September 1963. They told her they had just come from New Orleans and were soliciting funds to oust Castro from power in Cuba. She said one of the two Latin men, who introduced Oswald as "Leon Oswald," quoted him as saying, "'I'll bet you Cubans could kill Kennedy for what he did to you at the Bay of Pigs,'" according to Hosty's report. Mrs. Odio's sister, viewing his photograph after the assassination, also identified the American as Oswald.

After a virtual nine-month FBI silence on the possible identity of the three Odio visitors, Warren Commission Counsel Rankin wrote Hoover on August 23, 1964, stating "it is a matter of some importance to the commission that Mrs. Odio's allegation either be proved or disproved."

The FBI suddenly located anti-Castro gunrunner Loran Eugene Hall on September 16, 1964, and he gave a statement saying he was one of the trio calling on Mrs. Odio two months before the assassination. He identified his companions as William Seymour of Phoenix, Arizona, and Lawrence Howard of East Los Angeles. The FBI said Seymour, who slightly resembled Oswald, probably was the "Leon Oswald" at Mrs. Odio's apartment.

When Mrs. Odio was shown photographs of the three, she failed to identify any of them. Two days later, Seymour and Howard denied to the FBI they had visited Mrs. Odio in September 1963. And, two days after their denial, Hall renounced his story to the FBI, admitting it was fabricated.

With only four days until the Warren Report went to press, the FBI was where it started on the Odio story nine months earlier. But the Warren Commission went with the FBI's first statement taken from Hall—the statement which Hall later declared false.

"While the FBI had not yet completed its investigation into this matter at the time the report went to press," the commission stated, "the commission has concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald was not at Mrs. Odio's apartment in September 1963."

Years later, Hall was to acknowledge that at the time he gave his false statement to the FBI, he was indebted to the bureau; he believed that an FBI agent may have helped free him from the Dallas city jail without further repercussions, one day after Dallas police arrested him for possession of dangerous drugs on October 17, 1963.

Hosty, one of the first FBI agents to interview Mrs. Odio, said "hard physical evidence" indicated Oswald was on his way by bus from New Orleans to Mexico City at the time Mrs. Odio supposedly saw him at her apartment in Dallas. Hosty said Mrs. Odio "struck me as being a typical *tropicale*, kind of flighty. I don't think she knew who she was talking about. You know—'all gringos look alike.'"

In 1979, the House Select Committee on Assassinations, after evaluating the FBI's belated and beleaguered effort to prove Mrs. Odio was mistaken about Oswald, meekly stated it "was inclined to believe Silvia Odio." Gaeton Fonzi, the committee investigator who spearheaded the panel's reexamination of the Odio affair, said the FBI bungled the initial investigation in 1963 to 1964 because the bureau "spent most of its time questioning people about Silvia's credibility and her emotional problems" rather than "vigorously pursuing" leads Mrs. Odio gave agents about the physical description of the three men and their car.

Another reported sighting of Oswald in Dallas, several weeks prior to the Odio incident, apparently did not come to the attention of the FBI until 15 years after it supposedly happened. Anthony Veciana, who, in 1962, founded the Alpha 66 group of militant anti-Castro exiles in this country, told House committee investigator Fonzi that he had inadvertently walked in on a conversation between Oswald and an American intelligence agent in the lobby of a downtown Dallas building in the late summer of 1963.

Veciana said the agent, whom he knew only as "Maurice Bishop" (which he assumed was a CIA pseudonym), had access to large sums of money and helped Veciana plan Alpha 66 raids, as well as two assassination attempts on Castro—in Havana in 1961 and in Chile in 1971. Oswald and Bishop then abruptly ended their meeting as Veciana arrived from Miami for one of his many appointments with Bishop, who was his American "adviser" for anti-Castro actions.

The House Select Committee on Assassinations substantiated much of Veciana's story about Alpha 66 and his assassination attempts on Castro; but the panel was told by both the FBI and the CIA that they had no record of ever dealing with a Maurice Bishop. However, a retired CIA agent claimed he had seen a man he knew as Bishop at least three times at CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia.

Although the committee concluded the evidence was insufficient to support the finding that anti-Castro Cuban groups were involved in the assassination, "it could not preclude the possibility that individual members may have been involved." However, no explanation could be found of Oswald's "associations—nor at this late date [1978] fully determine their extent—with anti-Castro Cubans," the committee stated in its final report. It also declared that, in 1963-64, the FBI had "failed to pursue intelligence reports of possible anti-Castro involvement as vigorously as it might have."

Army intelligence dealt with Veciana as a source of information about Alpha 66 and Veciana complied, the committee said, "hoping to be supplied in return with funds and weapons." Veciana said he kept Bishop informed of his contacts with Army intelligence. The committee conceded in a footnote of its final report that Bishop "could well have been in the employ of one of the military intelligence agencies or even perhaps of some foreign power."

Within hours after the assassination, Army intelligence passed on detailed information about Oswald and A.J. Hidell, his alleged alias, to the FBI in Dallas and San Antonio. In 1978, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Jones, operations officer of the U.S. Army's 112th Military Intelligence Group in San Antonio, told the House committee that his office opened a file on Oswald as a possible counterintelligence threat after his 1963 arrest in New Orleans. Jones said he was surprised that, after the assassination, the FBI, the CIA, nor the Warren Commission ever interviewed him or asked for a copy of the military intelligence file on Oswald.

However, at such a late date, the House Committee could not examine the file because the Department of Defense had destroyed it in 1972 "as part of a general program aimed at eliminating all of its files pertaining to nonmilitary personnel." The committee found "this 'routine' destruction of the Oswald file extremely troublesome, especially when viewed in the light of the Department of Defense's failure to make this file available to the Warren Commission. . . .The question of Oswald's possible affiliation with military intelligence could not be fully resolved."

Within a week of Kennedy's death, according to Harold Reynolds, a friend of Oswald's, the Cuban expatriate attempted to contact an anti-Castro Cuban exile leader in Abilene, about 185 miles west of Dallas. Reynolds, then a commercial photographer who had taken photos of Cuban refugee families in Abilene, had befriended Oswald's contact, former Cuban construction contractor Pedro Valeriano Gonzalez. Reynolds believes that a meeting Oswald intended to have with Gonzalez in Abilene may answer the mystery of Oswald's whereabouts on the Sunday before the assassination, the only day the Warren Commission could not determine where he was.

Reynolds said that in November 1963, he read a note left in the apartment mailbox of Gonzalez, president of the Cuban Liberation Committee in Abilene.

"In handwriting it said something like 'call me immediately—urgent' and had two Dallas numbers written on it," Reynolds said. "I noticed the name Lee Oswald and asked Gonzalez who he was. Seems like he said, 'Some attorney from Dallas.' He looked nervous . . . so I left to go up the street and deliver some photos. As I was coming back I noticed his car a few blocks from his house and him standing in a pay booth."

Reynolds assumed Oswald left the card in Gonzalez' mailbox about two days earlier, on November 17, 1963, when Gonzalez and other Cuban refugees were at Reynolds' house for Sunday dinner. During the gathering, Reynolds recalls showing Gonzalez a story on the front page of a Dallas newspaper headlined, "Incident-Free Day Urged for JFK Visit."

"Pedro got quite excited," Reynolds said, "and although he wasn't supposed to have much knowledge of English, he went into the other room and translated the article into Spanish for four or five other Cubans. They also got excited. He came back waving the newspaper and whistling 'Bridge Over the River Kwai.'"

On the Sunday following the Kennedy assassination, when a Dallas nightclub operator, Jack Ruby, shot Oswald to death in the basement of Dallas police headquarters, Gonzalez and a refugee friend came by the Reynolds home. Mrs. Reynolds said Gonzalez "wanted all the photos of his baby and all the party shots Harold had taken of them. He also asked for all the negatives. When I told him Harold usually released only the prints, Pedro repeated very firmly, 'I want the negatives, too. I figured he really meant it, so I gave them to him."

Gonzalez moved to the Los Angeles area, from where he made payments to the Abilene Teachers Federal Credit Union on a car loan until June 1964, when he disappeared. Friends say he left the United States that summer to join the anti-Castro movement in Venezuela and work in a sugar factory.

Reynolds said he twice tried to tell the FBI about the Gonzalez incident in the months following the assassination. Both times, he said, federal agents showed no interest in even meeting with him because the Cuban connection was not pro-Castro. Reynolds' story did not publicly surface until *The Dallas Morning News* published it in June 1979, six months after the House Select Committee on Assassinations went out of business.

Soon after the assassination, three Dallas auto salesmen insisted Oswald test-drove a red Comet at a high rate of speed from their dealers lot, two weeks before his trip to Abilene. For the FBI, the story was even more disturbing because the salesman who rode with Oswald said Oswald expected to have enough money in a few weeks to pay cash for the $3,500 vehicle.

The Warren Commission decided that it was a case of mistaken identity for the three salesmen, because Oswald supposedly couldn't drive. It also cited FBI reports stating that the incident occurred on November 9, 1963, a Saturday when Oswald was visiting his wife and children in Irving.

But Eugene M. Wilson, the salesman whose demonstrator car Oswald drove, was certain the date was November 2. According to Wilson, he tried to tell FBI agents that the incident occurred on the earlier Saturday; but they were already convinced it was November 9.

Wilson said he told Oswald after the test drive that he couldn't see how they could make a deal, "looking at the credit statement and what he was trying to buy. He didn't have any money. It would be three weeks [November 23, the day after the assassination] before he would have any money."

Three weeks passed and Oswald failed to show up with the cash; but,

several hours after the assassination, Jack Ruby had a wad of bills big enough to buy two Comets. Billy J. Cox, the loan officer who personally handled Ruby's bank account, said he saw the nightclub operator with about $7,000 in his hand in the bank lobby on the afternoon of the assassination, two days before Ruby was to shoot Oswald.

In the ensuing two days prior to Ruby's arrest for murdering Oswald, about $3,000 of the $7,000 had unaccountably disappeared. Ruby had about $4,000 cash when he was arrested in the basement of Dallas police headquarters on November 24, 1963. Other than the purchase of a large amount of cold cuts and sandwiches a few hours after he was seen with the $7,000, Ruby was not known to have made any substantial outlay of cash during the two days preceding the slaying of Oswald.

Was the $3,000 that inexplicably disappeared from Ruby's possession earmarked as a payoff to Oswald, or was it returned to parties unknown or put in "escrow" after Oswald was arrested and accused of killing Dallas police officer J.D. Tippit?

Since the Warren Commission was unaware of Ruby's $7,000, it didn't ask these questions. Bank officer Cox said his story went untold because the FBI never questioned him after the assassination.

One person the FBI did talk to was crane operator George Applin, Jr., one of about six main-floor patrons in the Texas Theatre where Oswald was arrested after the assassination; but exactly what he told agents is not known. There is no record of a written report of the FBI interview, which is an exception from most interviews the bureau conducted with witnesses in connection with the assassination.

Applin was an important witness because he recognized Ruby sitting in the back row watching police scuffle with Oswald. Applin didn't tell this to police when questioned that day because he didn't know Ruby by sight; but, two days later, after Ruby shot Oswald, his face became known to Applin and the rest of the world.

Four months later, Applin started to volunteer information about the Ruby incident during questioning by Warren Commission attorney Joseph A. Ball. Ball had completed his examination when Applin said, "I don't even know if it has any bearing on the case, but there was a guy sitting in the back row there, where I was standing, and I said to him, I said, 'Buddy, you'd better move. There is a gun.' And he says —[he] just sat there....Just watching."

Ball asked Applin if he knew the man or had seen him since. Applin twice answered no. The testimony was concluded when Ball asked Applin whether he told the police about the man in the back row. He said he didn't, "but I did tell one of the FBI men about it."

Applin decided to go public with the Ruby story in 1979 because he felt the passage of time had made it more safe and more plausible.

In 1964, the Warren Commission asserted that Ruby had acted on impulse when he shot Oswald; but, in 1979, the House Select Committee on Assassinations concluded Ruby was stalking Oswald for two days before murdering him in the basement of Dallas police headquarters.

Applin recalls that as police were about to pounce on Oswald, Applin spoke to the motionless man he identified as Ruby sitting in a back-row seat. While Applin was retreating from the theater's main seating area into the lobby, Ruby "was sitting down, just watching them. And, when Oswald pulled the gun and snapped it at his [policeman's] head and missed and the darn thing wouldn't fire, that's when I tapped him [Ruby] on the shoulder and told him he had better move because those guns were waving around. He just turned around and looked at me. Then he turned around and started watching them."

The Warren Commission and the FBI placed Ruby's arrival at his downtown Dallas Carousel Club at 1:45 P.M., the day of the assassination, which would rule out his presence in the Texas Theatre, where Oswald was arrested between 1:45 and 1:50 P.M. "Upon arriving at the Carousel Club shortly before 1:45 P.M., Ruby instructed Andrew Armstrong, the Carousel's bartender, to notify employees that the club would be closed that night. . ." the Warren Report stated. "At 1:51 P.M., Ruby telephoned Ralph Paul [his financial backer] in Arlington, Texas, to say that he was going to close his clubs." However, neither the time of Ruby's arrival nor the identity of who made the 1:51 P.M. call from Ruby's club to Paul is substantiated in Warren Commission testimony. The commission needed to have Ruby arriving before 1:45 P.M., in order to dispute another suspicious sighting of Ruby at Parkland Memorial Hospital at about 1:30 P.M., when Kennedy's death was announced.

The commission apparently believed Ruby when, for some reason, he said he wasn't at the hospital, although at least one of the two persons who said they saw him there was very credible. He was Seth Kantor, a White House correspondent who had known Ruby from Kantor's earlier days as a Dallas reporter. Kantor said Ruby shook his hand and called him by his first name.

The commission said Kantor was probably mistaken because Ruby could not have returned before 1:45 P.M. to his club from the hospital through congested traffic. Kantor's story, however, was accepted by the House Select Committee on Assassinations. And Ruby's presence at the hospital at about 1:30 P.M. didn't rule out his arrival at the Texas Theatre shortly before 1:50 P.M. The 6.5-mile trip, timed through heavy traffic and within speed limits, would not exceed 12 minutes.

The 3.2-mile trip from the theater to Ruby's club takes slightly over nine minutes at an average speed of 30 miles per hour. This would have given Ruby time to drive to his club and make a long-distance phone call at 2:05 P.M.—the first call undeniably made by him from the club that afternoon—to his sister in Chicago.

Although the Dallas Police Department clearly had priority on the problem of Oswald's murder, Hoover knew almost immediately that Ruby posed just as big a problem for the FBI. In his case, however, he could keep it hidden for a while. And he did—for three months from the Warren Commission and for nine years from the rest of the world.

In a confidential memorandum to the Warren Commission on February 27, 1964, three months after the assassination, Hoover revealed that Ruby had been a potential informant for the FBI. The FBI chief matter-of-factly wrote the commission that he had some new information "obtained through a search of all files in the Dallas office wherein references to Jack Ruby appeared." Hoover stated that in 1959, an FBI agent had contacted Ruby on nine occasions in less than seven months "as a nightclub operator who might have knowledge of the criminal element in Dallas."

Despite the repeated meetings, Ruby "furnished no information whatever and further contacts with him were discontinued," Hoover told the commission. He asserted that Ruby technically "was never at any time an informant" for the FBI. A bureau document declassified in 1977 said Ruby was a "potential criminal informant" who had nothing to offer.

The day before his second meeting with FBI agent Charles W. Flynn on April 28, 1959, Ruby, for the first time, rented a safe-deposit box in the same bank where he was seen with the $7,000 four years later. During the nine meetings with Flynn, Ruby used the box ten times. Possibly to avoid focusing attention on this period of his life, neither the FBI nor the Warren Commission subsequently asked Ruby why bank records showed he rented the deposit box.

In 1977, Flynn told the House Select Committee on Assassinations that Ruby had never discussed with him anything about a safe-deposit box during their 1959 meetings. After Flynn ended his contacts with Ruby, Ruby entered the box only five times during the next two years. When the box was opened by court order in late 1963, it was empty.

While Ruby supposedly was telling Flynn nothing worthwhile, his extracurricular activities during 1959 were aimed almost totally toward Cuba. On New Year's Day of that year, Fidel Castro's guerilla fighters had taken control of the island from military dictator Fulgencio Batista and were threatening to force Mafia-backed professional gamblers out of the casinos in Havana. One of the eventual victims was Lewis McWillie, a close friend of Ruby's from his early years in Dallas. McWillie, who was running a gambling casino in Havana, subsequently became a "violent anti-Castroite," according to the Warren Commission, and fled from Cuba in 1961.

McWillie's former boss in Havana, reputed Mafia chief Santos Trafficante of Tampa, Florida, was arrested by Castro and imprisoned in April 1959, the month Ruby rented his safe-deposit box in Dallas. Earlier that year, Ruby had ordered four revolvers shipped by a Dallas gun dealer to McWillie in Havana because McWillie "was a little worried of the new regime coming in, and evidently he wanted some protection," Ruby told the Warren Commission.

Later, in the summer and fall of 1959, while Ruby was still meeting in Dallas with FBI agent Flynn, he began making secret trips to Cuba. According to the House Select Committee on Assassinations, he had traveled to Cuba at least three times that year, probably "serving as a courier for gambling interests."

Ruby's 1959 trips to Cuba probably were not his first, however. James E. Beaird, a poker-playing partner during the Dallas nightclub operator's occasional visits to the Houston area, said Ruby was running guns and ammunition from Galveston Bay to Castro's guerillas in Cuba about 1957. Beaird said he waited until 1966, three years after the assassination, and "nothing had come out so I called them [FBI] just to find out why. . . .I was curious. However, they didn't see fit to even mention it to me again, so I never heard of anything they ever opened up on it."

Ten years after he had tipped off the FBI about Ruby's Cuban gunrunning, Beaird said, the bureau finally "sent a man out in 1976. I don't know why they did it then." The timing of the agent's interview with Beaird was better late than never. It was in June 1976, one month after the Senate Intelligence Committee voted to recommend a new congressional inquiry into the Kennedy assassination. Senate investigators had just discovered the FBI files—suppressed since the assassination—that revealed Hoover knew of CIA plots to kill Castro by enlisting the aid of Mafia hoodlums in 1961-62.

Despite the allegations from Beaird and others about Ruby's gunrunning exploits, the FBI led the Warren Commission to believe that no factual information existed. Beaird told the FBI he "personally saw many boxes of new guns, including automatic rifles and handguns," stored in a two-story house near the channel at Kemah and loaded on what appeared to be a 50-foot military surplus boat. According to the FBI report, Beaird "stated each time the boat left with guns and ammunition, Jack Ruby was on the boat."

Beaird said Ruby "was in it for the money. It wouldn't matter what side, just one that would pay him the most."

Ruby may have been a money player, but politically he knew one side from another in the Cuban conflict. After Oswald was brought before reporters in the Dallas police station on the evening of the assassination, Dallas County District Attorney Henry Wade "mistakenly" described him as a member of the anti-Castro "Free Cuba Committee." Ruby corrected Wade from the back of the room, yelling "Fair Play for Cuba Committee," the pro-Castro organization connected to Oswald in New Orleans.

Suspicions of an Oswald-Ruby link were fanned by Oswald's unexplained path from his rooming house to Ruby's apartment, just before his capture in the Texas Theatre. Oswald was only about four blocks from Ruby's apartment when he changed directions after the shooting of police officer J.D. Tippit. However, the alleged sighting of Ruby in the theater and a chilling story told years later by a close friend of Trafficante, the Mafia's man in Cuba, indicates the theater may have been Oswald's original destination for a rendezvous with fellow conspirators. If so, Oswald was possibly disobeying orders when he headed for Ruby's apartment.

The Trafficante associate and fellow Mafioso, John Martino, made it clear the Tippit slaying wasn't in the script. In a conversation with trusted business partner Fred Claasen of Fort Worth, shortly before Martino died in 1975, the Miami resident revealed his personal knowledge of a conspiracy to kill Kennedy. Martino said Oswald "made a mistake" in shooting Tippit because "there was no way we could get to him" after that. He asserted "they were to meet Oswald in the theater, and get him out of the country, then eliminate him." Oswald's encounter with Tippit aborted the play and "they had Ruby kill him," Claasen said Martino told him.

Martino wasn't alone in his contention that it wasn't Ruby's own idea to kill Oswald. Ruby once remarked to his jailer, Norman Hooten, "If I'm ever turned loose, I won't live three days after I hit the streets."

Martino told Claasen the "they" who had Ruby kill Oswald were the same "anti-Castro people who put Oswald together. Oswald didn't know who he was working for. He was ignorant of who was really putting him together."

For Martino to tell such a story was almost as remarkable as the story itself. One of the first to be accused of a plot to overthrow Castro, Martino wasted three years in a Cuban prison and came out very embittered. Soon after the assassination—when he may not have known what he knew 12 years later—he spread rumors in the

Miami area that Castro had paid Oswald to kill Kennedy. The FBI made a valiant effort to validate the story but it led to a dead end.

Unfortunately, however, the bureau was usually less imaginative in probing the assassination. Agents ended each interview of a Ruby associate with a stock question: Did you ever see Oswald in Ruby's Carousel Club or know of any other connection between the two men? The answer was always negative.

Although the bureau never asked the same questions about Tippit and Ruby, it received some feedback anyway. During interviews, some of Ruby's acquaintances voluntarily recalled seeing Tippit in one of Ruby's clubs. In one interview, agents stumbled onto an Oswald-Tippit link.

Less than one month after the assassination, the FBI located a waitress at a restaurant several blocks from Oswald's rooming house who said she served Oswald breakfast there two days before the assassination. She had nothing to tell the FBI about Ruby, but she recalled Tippit was in the restaurant, "as was his habit at about that time each morning, and [he] shot a glance at Oswald," when Oswald got "nasty" because of the way his eggs were cooked.

The bureau did not even bother to pass on the waitress's story to the Warren Commission until long after the interview. And, six months after listening to the first waitress, agents finally got around to talking to another waitress at the restaurant. She moved the Oswald-eggs incident forward to one day before the assassination. She also said Oswald came into the restaurant "numerous times."

The FBI now had the first waitress telling them that Tippit was a frequent visitor to her restaurant and a second waitress saying Oswald was, too. The first waitress said she had no indication that they knew each other when Tippit glared at Oswald for complaining about his eggs. The second waitress was not asked this question. In fact, the FBI didn't even ask her if Tippit was there when Oswald complained. True to form, however, agents asked whether she had ever seen Ruby in the restaurant. Dutifully, they concluded their report saying she had never seen Ruby in the restaurant and had "no knowledge of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, or of any connections between Ruby and Oswald." Case closed.

In pursuing leads to the Tippit shooting, FBI agents were in a precarious position. Due to Hoover's cold war with the Dallas Police Department, the two law enforcement agencies didn't have the best of relations. And with one of their own gunned down, the police were in no mood to take a backseat to the "feebees."

The FBI was oblivious to Tippit, as though his murder was an isolated incident, unrelated to the assassination of the president.

Not even Tippit's widow, one of the last persons known to have talked to him the morning of the assassination, was called to testify before the Warren Commission. Neither were any other members of the Tippit family nor any of his friends.

Frank Wright, who lived about a block away, said he saw a man standing over Tippit as the policeman rolled over on the street mortally wounded. The man ran off and jumped into an old gray coupe which sped away with another man behind the wheel. Wright said. The FBI never talked to Wright, even though his wife called the ambulance to the scene of the shooting.

Perhaps because of the sloppy investigation in 1963-64, new evidence in the Tippit case continues to surface under its own buoyancy. The most recent disclosure was by two men who told of an unusual telephone call Tippit made possibly minutes before his murder.

The phone call might explain why Tippit failed to respond to a police radio call to his squad car at 1:03 P.M., 12 minutes before he died. More important, however, are answers to whom Tippit called and why he used a private telephone when he had access to the police radio in his squad car.

When Tippit entered the Top Ten Record Shop, about a half mile from where he would be shot to death, W.R. Stark and Louis Cortinas were behind the counter. In his haste, Tippit had to ask customers to step aside as he made his way toward the phone. Stark and Cortinas recognized him from previous visits there, they said. Cortinas estimated Tippit let the phone ring "maybe seven or eight times" without saying a word, hung up, and walked off fast. About ten minutes later, Cortinas said, he heard a policeman had been shot.

Because the Warren Commission's time of the shooting at 1:15 P.M. has always been under serious dispute, Tippit may not have been using the phone at 1:03 P.M. when his car didn't respond to the radio dispatcher's call. His could have been the mysterious squad car, cruising about one mile from the record shop, that stopped in front of 1026 Beckley at 1 P.M.

At the time, about 30 minutes after the assassination, Oswald was inside the rooming house, changing clothes and getting a pistol. Police had not yet learned Oswald's name, much less where he lived; but Earlene Roberts, housekeeper at the rooming house, testified a police car beeped the horn twice, waited briefly, and then slowly drove off. Oswald rushed out of the house moments later, she said, but the car was gone.

About 12 minutes after Oswald left the rooming house, he was walking along Tenth Street through a quiet residential neighborhood in the Oak Cliff section of Dallas, about four miles from the site of the assassination. He had walked generally in a southeastern direction for about one mile and was only about four blocks from Ruby's apartment when Tippit started slowly trailing him in his police car.

Up to this point, Tippit was having amazing luck. He had arrived only about 20 minutes ago in a strange patrol district several miles from his assigned district and had stumbled onto the accused assassin whose identity was not known at police headquarters until almost one hour later.

Just before the dispatcher directed Tippit to "move into central Oak Cliff" from his far south Dallas district, the police radio broadcasted a description of a suspect in the assassination. It said he "is an unknown white male approximately 30, 165 pounds, slender build, armed with what is thought to be a 30-30 rifle." Surely this did not fit the description of the man Tippit was following down Tenth Street, although the FBI later told the Warren Commission that it "approximated that of Oswald." Oswald was slender and about the same height, but at least 15 pounds lighter and six years younger. And he wasn't carrying a rifle.

Most everyone, until 1978, thought Oswald fired four quick shots into Tippit and ran off. Four years ago, however, an eyewitness was discovered whose version differed from any of the others who said they saw all or part of the shooting. The House Select Committee on Assassinations interviewed Jack Ray Tatum and apparently believed him. Tatum said Oswald, after firing three shots into Tippit, circled around Tippit's car and returned to stand over the prone body and fire a fourth, point blank, into the head.

If Tatum's story is accurate, it casts doubt on the Tippit-Oswald shooting scenario in the Warren Report as described by other witnesses who missed the dramatic fourth shot. It raises the question of what else they could have missed. It also poses the question of why Oswald, knowing he was about to be identified anyway as a suspect in the assassination of the president, wanted to be doubly certain Tippit was dead. Could the patrolman, had he lived, have known something about Oswald's plan of escape or have implicated others in a plot? Did Oswald miss a connection with the squad car that stopped in front of the rooming house and decide to go on foot to the apartment of fellow conspirator Ruby? Did he approach Tippit's car on Tenth Street, thinking it was the intended escape vehicle, realize his error too late and shoot Tippit? Was this the Oswald "mistake" that Martino said forced the group who set him up to alter their plans for his execution?

The recurring proximities between Ruby, the executioner, and Tippit, the enigma, are hard to dismiss as coincidence. When Tippit was asked by the dispatcher for his location at 12:54 P.M., after he was ordered to move into central Oak Cliff, he radioed back that he had arrived at the intersection of Eighth and Lancaster streets. This was only three blocks from Ruby's apartment at 223 South Ewing Street. It was also on Eighth Street, about two blocks from the freeway, where off-duty policeman Harry N. Olsen, a personal friend of Ruby's for three years, was guarding an "estate."

Olsen and his girl friend, Kay Helen Coleman, a stripper at Ruby's Carousel Club, met Ruby supposedly by chance in a downtown Dallas parking garage in the early morning hours on the day after the Kennedy assassination. The three talked for more than an hour in Olsen's car. Ruby concealed the meeting from authorities for almost six months until he was questioned by the Warren Commission on June 7, 1964, in the Dallas County jail. Just before he first mentioned the Olsen meeting, Ruby told Earl Warren it was "very important" to be moved to Washington under protective custody of the commission. When Warren said no, Ruby began talking about the meeting with Olsen. He said Olsen had told him "they could cut this guy [Oswald] inch by inch into ribbons."

When Olsen was interviewed by the Warren Commission two months later, he was vague about the meeting with Ruby, except to say that Ruby cursed Oswald but Olsen didn't urge him to shoot Oswald.

Olsen, after acknowledging he was acquainted with Tippit, was not asked if he had spoken to him when Tippit's squad car reported in very near the area of the estate, 24 minutes after the assassination. Olsen testified he learned of the assassination when he answered the telephone for the absent estate owner, and he then went outside to talk to passersby. He resigned from the Dallas Police Department at Chief Jesse Curry's request within a month after the assassination and moved to California.

Olsen wasn't the only link in a curious pattern of Tippit associations with Ruby's cronies and business partners. Tippit moved in Ruby's circles from the time he came to Dallas in late 1946. He and his new wife first lived in an apartment in a tough neighborhood just around the corner from the Singapore Supper Club operated by Ruby's sister Eva Grant. By the end of 1947, Ruby had taken over the Singapore from his sister and renamed it the Silver Spur.

When he first came to Dallas, Tippit worked for the Dearborn Stove Company across town from the Singapore/Silver Spur in another district of Dallas, where he and his wife were to move shortly. The Tippits' new home on West Commerce Street in 1948 was across the street from the Sky-Vu Club, a hangout for the so-called Dixie Mafia gang of criminals.

Tippit left the wild world of west Dallas in September 1949, after he was laid off from his new job as a rock wool installer. He moved back to the farm near Lone Star, Texas, just as intercity gang rivalries began heating up in Dallas. Three months after his departure, Hollis de Lois Green, leader of a gang to which Ruby was aligned, was shot to death on Christmas Eve on the steps of the Sky-Vu Club. Green's was the biggest hit in the city's history until the president was assassinated.

When Tippit returned to Dallas about four years later, he became an apprentice policeman. Although he was never promoted after being made a patrolman in 1953, he was honored during a ten-month period in 1956 for superior service. Working generally in the west Dallas area where he once lived, Tippit made 911 arrests during the ten months, resulting in the jailing of 348 persons, in addition to 524 traffic citations.

Tippit's law-and-order spree in 1956 may have been prompted in 1955 by the purchase of a new home in Oak Cliff, just four blocks from Ralph Paul's, Ruby's financial backer. The likelihood that Tippit and Paul knew each other, however, rested in their connections to a restaurant called Austin's Bar-B-Cue.

Tippit was working as a weekend security guard at Austin's—an off-duty job he had held for three years—when he was murdered by Oswald.

Paul was a friend of Austin Cook, the owner of the restaurant, according to Cook's former wife; and Paul, at the time of assassination, was living in the same Arlington home of Bert Bowman, Cook's former partner in the Dallas restaurant. In 1958, Bowman had ended his business association with Cook and entered into partnership with Paul in an Arlington restaurant they opened at the time of the assassination.

Mrs. Bowman said her husband and Cook remained friends for many years after they ended their business relationship. She also noted Paul was a "close friend" of Ruby's and once brought Ruby to the Bowman house. The House Select Committee on Assassinations said Cook stated "he may have met Ruby but he could not recall."

The FBI interviewed Cook, Mrs. Bowman, and Paul in the months following the assassination but felt no further probing was necessary after Cook said he had never heard Tippit mention Oswald, Ruby, or any of Ruby's clubs. Also, the Warren Commission had requested the FBI to merely conduct a "limited" background investigation of Tippit.

A sign behind the check-out counter in Paul's restaurant hung there until his death in 1974. In stencilled letters, it read, "Remember November."

Earl Golz, a veteran JFK assassination expert, is a former reporter for the Dallas Morning News. *His articles have also appeared in* The Village Voice *and* Texas Business.

THE DALLAS POLICE SIRENS: FOLLOWUP

by Gary Mack

Remembering an article I wrote for the April 1980 *Continuing Inquiry*, some readers wondered about the period of time the motorcade may have stopped and whether that should be added to the tape times in last month's lead story.

Briefly, I wrote in 1980 that Dallas Police Officer Earle Brown watched the motorcade stop on the Stemmons entrance ramp for about 30 seconds. In a telephone interview, Jesse Curry denied a complete halt, but admitted a "rolling stop" of perhaps two or three miles per hour. This happened just before Stemmons, he added, while talking with the motorcycle officer who said the President had been hit. Curry then had to tell the Secret Service agents in JFK's car where the hospital was. At that point, he accelerated and gave his first post assassination radio transmission to "Go to the hospital...".

I doubt very much that this period of time could have covered more than 40 or 45 seconds since the last gunshot. In the article last month I used a conservative 25 seconds merely to illustrate the point that the time from the last shot to Curry's first message must be added to the Ramsey Panel's clock of events (as the Ramsey Panel admitted in its Report). That's because the Panel decided the shots weren't recorded, so there was no way to know exactly when the assassination happened.

As the time span lengthens, the average speed of the limousine drops *if* the Ramsey Report is correct. No time can be added to the BBN scenario because the shots were recorded and the exact time to the middle of the siren sequence is known. In fact, under BBN, the longer it took Curry to get on the radio, the faster they would have had to drive on Stemmons to get the average speed of 58.0 miles per hour.

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Nixon linked to Allende death plot

By BART ZIEGLER
Associated Press

BOSTON — Former CIA Director Richard Helms' testimony that President Nixon didn't order Chilean President Salvador Allende assassinated was "nonsense," according to a magazine article.

ALLENDE

Nixon ordered Helms to "get rid" of Allende, a Marxist, and Helms told a close associate "there was no doubt in his (Helms') mind at the time what Nixon meant," writes Seymour M. Hersh in the December issue of *The Atlantic*.

Nixon gave the order at a Sept. 15, 1970, meeting in the Oval Office with Attorney General John Mitchell, Henry M. Kissinger, then Nixon's national security adviser, and Helms, the article said.

Nixon gave a "blank check to move against Allende without informing anyone," the Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter said.

Nixon gave a "blank check to move against Allende."

— Seymour Hersh

Allende was elected in 1970 and died during a coup three years later. The military government that took over reported Allende committed suicide.

Helms, reached Monday in Washington, said he hadn't seen the magazine. "This whole thing has been covered exhaustively in various testimony before the Congress. I don't have anything to add," he said.

"Seymour Hersh has got a highly developed sense of humor or something," Helms said. "... Nothing is a denial. I'm just not commenting one way or another."

Nixon spokesman Ray Price in New York said he could not reach the former president Monday night, and added, "I doubt he would have a comment on that."

Calls to Kissinger's Westchester, N.Y., home went unanswered and a call to his Manhattan apartment building was answered by a doorman in the lobby who said he could not give out Kissinger's home phone.

Hersh said the "close associate" who described Helms' statement was "in a position to know the truth."

The author conceded that "no document will ever be found, nor will there be an eyewitness to describe CIA plans or White House directions to murder Allende" and that nearly everyone he interviewed denied knowing of such a plot.

But "that the plans and pressures did exist was confirmed by a senior member of the intelligence community" who had been "unfailingly accurate" in the past, he said.

Hersh writes that between Sept. 15 and Oct. 24, 1970, the day the Chilean Congress confirmed Allende's election, Helms ordered four CIA agents into Chile to contact members of the Chilean military known to be interested in staging a coup against Allende.

BRIEFS....A very serious discrepancy in the Oswald exhumation has been alleged; if confirmed, and there are several ways to prove it, US Government complicity in a coverup will have been proven and the proverbial dam will burst.... Michael Eddowes may have been right and wrong, but for a reason no one thought of; if the proof is there, the story will break in February - either way, full details will be in the next Coverups....Agreement has been reached to computer enhance the Moorman photo; now a non-controversial facility must be chosen (if one exists!)....Thanks to all for spreading the word about Coverups - the number of subscribers is almost high enough to go to 12 pages....And special thanks to Robert Groden for his patient work on the Z film and to Jack White for his continuing help!

COVERUPS! is published monthly with 8 or more pages of useful information for JFK researchers and historians. Subscription price in North America is $1.00 (US) per issue; residents of other countries should write for foreign rates. Back issues are available at your regular subscription price. Your subscription expires with the issue number on your address label. Original manuscripts, articles and newspaper clippings are always appreciated—your contributions are essential for a good newsletter!

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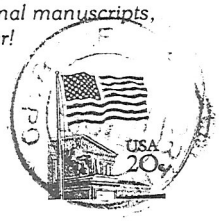

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